



**CITY OF SAN DIEGO
COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER
DISTRICT ONE**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 19, 2010

TO: Jay Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer

FROM: Councilmember Sherri S. Lightner

SUBJECT: Fire Station Brownouts

In December I voted to approve the Mayor's proposed changes to our City budget in order to fill a projected \$179 million budget gap. One of the most painful results of those changes will be rolling brownouts at 8 of the 13 San Diego fire stations that house more than one fire company.

I appreciate your careful analysis to decide which stations, if included in the brownouts, will result in the least impacts to the safety and well-being of our citizens.

As you create a brownout plan, I ask that you please keep in mind that in Fiscal Year 2009:

- Station 40, which serves Rancho Peñasquitos, has two companies that had an average first arrival response time of 6 minutes and 23 seconds, which was the worst out of all double houses.
- When Station 40's two companies were the first to arrive at an incident, they arrived in five minutes or less an average of 26.72% of the time, which was the worst average out of all double houses.
- Station 35, which serves University City, has two companies that had an average first arrival response time of 6 minutes and 5 seconds, which was the second worst of all double houses.
- When Station 35's companies were the first to arrive at an incident, they arrived in five minutes or less an average of 35.83% of the time, which was the third worst average out of all double houses in the City.

- Station 35's companies responded to a total of 4,175 calls, making it the fourth busiest station in the City.

I recognize that the reasons for these statistics are the large geographic areas served by these stations, as well as the high volume of incidents. Even without brownouts, these factors create extreme challenges for these stations. These challenges are already well known: it's why the community plan for University City includes two additional fire stations, yet to be built. It's also why citizens in these two areas have recently joined together to create Community Canyon Fire Watch groups.

In conclusion, available data makes it reasonable to expect that Station 35 and 40 should be two of the five double houses exempted from brownouts. We cannot jeopardize public safety or economic stability by putting at risk the residents of University City and Rancho Peñasquitos, the students, faculty and staff at UCSD, or San Diego's high-tech businesses on the Torrey Pines Mesa and in the Golden Triangle.

cc: Honorable Mayor Jerry Sanders
Javier Mainar, Chief, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department